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The Cruise Guy's Top 5 Cruise Tips

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1. Be flexible with your dates. Cruise prices can vary by sailing date, so check a few dates before and after your desired sailing date to ensure maximum savings.
2. Always use a cruise agent and never book direct. There are no advantages to booking directly with a cruise line, and you won't get objective, professional advice. A true cruise specialist can match you with the best ship and deal.
3. Research online but don't book online. There are many deals -- including specials for residents, military, senior citizens -- that may not be available if booked online. Experts may be aware of even better deals on similar ships and dates.
4. Book early. Booking windows have returned to pre-Sept. 11, 2001, patterns, and some of the most desired specialty itineraries like Europe and Alaska require advance booking to avoid higher air and cruise fares. The difference can be thousands of dollars.
5. Consider travel insurance. A cruise is an investment of money and time and should be protected. Besides providing protection for cancellation, travel insurance policies also cover for interruption and travel delay. Purchasing travel insurance isn't necessary until final payment.

For more information call 800-700-3405.

Tips compiled by **The Cruise Guy**.

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